

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Amendments

The Applicant has amended claims 1, 5, 9, 11, 13, and 16. Applicant respectfully submits no new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-21 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Examiner Objections - Claims

Claims 9 and 11 were objected to because of informalities. The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough review of the claims. The Applicant has amended the claims as suggested by the Examiner in order to correct the informalities. The Examiner's consideration of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 5 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter as the invention. Claims 5 and 13 have been amended to provide antecedent basis for all elements of the claims. Therefore, the withdrawal of the rejection and the allowance of claims 5 and 13 is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Maropis, et al., Pub. No. US2004/002371A1. The Applicant has amended claims 1 and 16 to better define the intended scope of the claimed invention. Support for this amendment is found in paragraphs 34, 35 and 39 of the Applicant's specification. The Examiner's consideration of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

Independent claims 1 and 16 have been amended and now recite that the supplementary service is separately charged from any call connection fees. The Applicant's claimed invention provides separate billing of supplementary services from call connection fees.

Maropis discloses a prepaid dial tone service system which charges monthly fees for bundled services which include call connection or usage fees (see paragraphs 21 and 33). For example, Maropis discloses charging a monthly fee for a bundled service including call connection with call waiting, caller ID, etc. The monthly charge may be for a basic service or a bundled premium service (see paragraph 33).

The Applicant's invention on the other hand, provides a charging scheme which charges the supplementary service separately from the call connection service. Thus, the present invention provides charging for supplementary services which may not be included with a monthly fee associated with call usage.

Thus, Maropis does not disclose all the elements of the present invention. Therefore, the allowance of claims 1 and 16 is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claims 2-7 and 1-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maropis. The Applicant believes that a number in the rejected claims is missing and that claims 2-7 and 17-21 are, in reality, being rejected by the Examiner. The Applicant has amended claims 1 and 16 to better define the intended scope of the claimed invention. Support for this amendment is found in paragraphs 34, 35 and 39 of the Applicant's specification. The Examiner's consideration of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

As discussed above, independent claims 1 and 16 have been amended and now recite that the supplementary service is separately charged from any call connection fees. The Applicant's claimed invention provides separate billing from call connection fees.

Maropis discloses a prepaid dial tone service system which charges monthly fees for bundled services. The monthly charge may be for a basic service or a bundled premium service. However, the Applicant's invention provides a charging scheme which charges the supplementary service separately from the call connection service. Thus, the present invention provides charging for supplementary services which may not be included with a monthly fee associated with call usage.

Thus, Maropis does not teach or suggest all the elements of the present invention. Claims 2-7 depend from amended claim 1 and recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 1. Claims 17-21 depend from amended claim 16 and recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 16. Therefore, the allowance of claims 2-7 and 17-21 is respectfully requested.

Claims 8-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maropis in view of Phillips et al., US Patent No. 5,870,459. The Applicant has amended claims 1 and 9 to better define the intended scope of the claimed invention. Support for this amendment is found in paragraphs 34, 35 and 39 of the Applicant's specification. The Examiner's consideration of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

Independent claims 1 and 9 have been amended and now recite that the supplementary service is separately charged from any call connection fees. The Applicant's claimed invention provides separate billing of supplementary services from call connection fees.

As discussed above, Maropis discloses a prepaid dial tone service system which charges monthly fees for bundled services. The monthly charge may be for a basic service or a bundled premium service. In regards to the Examiner's statement that subscribers may be able to select a basic or a premium service for prepaid dial tone service, it should be noted that these are bundled services and the supplementary services are not charged separately.

Phillips discloses a recyclable reusable telephone. However, Phillips does not make up the missing element of charging separately for supplementary services.

The Applicant's invention provides a charging scheme which charges the supplementary service separately from the call connection service. Thus, the present invention provides charging for supplementary services which may not be included with a monthly fee associated with call usage.

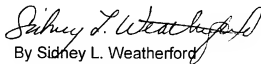
Maropis and Phillips do not teach or suggest all the elements of the present invention. Claim 8 depends from amended claim 1 and recites further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 1. Claims 10-15 depend from amended claim 9 and recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 9. Therefore, the allowance of claims 8-15 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,


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